



News

Mount Clemens DDA
Macomb County Office of Public Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 3, 2005

Contacts:
Arthur Mullen
Executive Director
Mount Clemens DDA
586-469-4168
afmullen2@yahoo.com

Phil Frame
Macomb County Office of Public Affairs
586-469-5125
phil.frame@macombcountymi.gov

Macomb County Wireless Internet Project Launched

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – The City of Mount Clemens Downtown Development Authority (DDA), with help from the Macomb County Board of Commissioners, is calling for bids to launch the first phase of a countywide wireless broadband Internet project.

The DDA issued a request for proposals calling for vendors to bid on installing a non-technology specific, high-speed wireless system in downtown Mount Clemens for Phase One. Phase Two will bring the same wireless technology to the rest of the city and Phase Three will cover all of Macomb County.

A vendor for the system will be selected in January 2006 and the first phase of the system is expected to be operational by June 1, 2006.

– more –

Page 2

“We believe high-speed broadband wireless Internet supports our economic redevelopment efforts in Mount Clemens and will give many more of our residents access to the Internet,” said Arthur Mullen, DDA executive director. “We worked very closely with Macomb County’s Information Technology and Planning & Economic Development departments to develop this initiative.”

The RFP is available on the Mount Clemens DDA Web site at www.downtownmountclemens.com/UploadDownloads/MacombCountyWiFiRFP.pdf.

Printed copies may be obtained by calling the Mount Clemens DDA offices at 586-469-4168. A pre-bid meeting will be held at 2 p.m. Monday, Nov. 21, for companies interested in bidding on the project. Bids must be submitted at the DDA offices at 49 Macomb Place, Mount Clemens, by 2 p.m. Monday Jan. 9, 2006.

“The business model and technology for the wireless project will be provided by the vendor, but it is important this be available to everyone in some capacity,” said Cynthia Zerkowski, director of the Macomb County Information Technology Department. “This is especially important in the northern communities of Macomb County, where high-speed Internet access is still not a reality.”

The goals of the broadband wireless project are to:

- Provide universal and affordable high-speed broadband access for the phased areas
- Support the growth of technological skills and knowledge that Macomb County residents will need for jobs in the 21st Century
- Enable free access to the Internet for low-income residents
- Promote economic growth and development

“This will attract businesses, enhance educational opportunities and improve the quality of life in Macomb County,” said Stephen Cassin, executive director of the Macomb County Planning & Economic Development Department.

The Macomb County wireless Internet project is a result of Link Macomb, a countywide advanced telecommunications study and strategic plan adopted by the County Board of Commissioners in December 2003. The County Board established a Telecommunications Oversight Group in January 2004 to implement the Link Macomb recommendations.

“An educated workforce and readily available technology are vital to economic growth, and bringing new jobs to Macomb County is a primary concern of the Board of Commissioners,” said Board Chair Nancy White. “We are happy to see this project move along and that Mount Clemens, our county seat, is the test bed.”

About the Mount Clemens Downtown Development Authority

The Mount Clemens DDA was established in April 1983 to increase property values in the business district, eliminate the causes of deterioration and promote economic growth. The DDA believes that keeping the economy and vitality of the downtown healthy also increases property values throughout the City of Mount Clemens, while improving the quality of life for all residents.

About Macomb County

Macomb County is an enriching community in Southeastern Michigan that has one of the state’s fastest rates of growth. Its 825,000 residents make it Michigan’s third-largest county, with direct access to Lake St. Clair and Anchor Bay, and a host of cultural and entertainment options. Its highly skilled workforce and investment in new and expanding businesses make it open to enterprise. Active civic leadership translates into balanced budgets and Michigan’s second-lowest tax rate. An increasingly diverse population and high quality of life make Macomb County accessible to all.

#